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*Elizabeth Hardee Iris Gardens*  
*Kentfield, Marin County, California*



*"No Garden is Complete Without Irises"*

# ELIZABETH HARDEE IRIS GARDENS



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GROWER & IMPORTER OF  
RARE IRISES

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1924---1925

KENTFIELD  
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Landscape in Elizabeth Hardee Iris Gardens



# *Iris*



MAKE YOUR SPRING GARDEN A RAINBOW OF COLOR.

Greek mythology tells us that Iris was a virgin, the personification of the rainbow and messenger of the gods to men.

No greater appreciation of the flower can be given today than that which the ancient Greeks gave when they bestowed this name. The colors of the iris are iridescent, liquid; all efforts to describe their beauty seem futile. One might as well try to describe the silken sheen of the poppy.

Although the iris has been named for a virgin, its regal beauty suggests rather a royal leader, a king or emperor, garbed in robes of satin and velvet with lacings of gold. There is something bold and vigorous about the iris and while one may find varieties blooming in the summer, autumn or winter, it generally flowers at a time when it can be most appreciated, in the months of March, April, May and June—a veritable “Lord of the Spring.”

The new irises are the result of careful selection and breeding by the world's best hybridists. An iris usually blooms the second year from seed and out of hundreds of seedlings no two will be precisely alike. The stock of a new iris may be limited to one bulb, and the increase is naturally slow from the propagator's point of view. This accounts for the high price of new introductions. As the stock increases the price falls. Some of our finest irises are reasonable in price because they are older introductions. I can say quite honestly, however, that I feel that all the higher priced novelties listed in my catalog are well worth the price.

*Elizabeth Hardee*

*Member American Iris Society.*

# Terms

## PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR SINGLE RHIZOMES

My terms are cash with order. Money will be refunded for any variety which I cannot furnish. No substitutions will be made without consent of the buyer. While I have a large stock of most of the standard varieties my supply of the latest importations is necessarily limited.

A dozen of any one variety of iris, listed at \$1 or less, will be sold at the rate of ten. For varieties listed at more than \$1 each the prices are net.

I use great care in keeping my stock true to name, but should any prove untrue I will, on proper proof, replace it.

Delivery free if by parcel post, except for orders of less than \$2 in value, when 5 cents per bulb must be added for postage.

The name of the originator is, where known, given in parentheses.

The figures preceding the names of the varieties are the ratings given in the recent symposium of the American Iris Society.

The American Iris Society has checked on many of the Bearded Iris and this checking has been indicated by numbers—100 being a perfect Iris, 90 and over very fine, 85 fine, 80 very good, 70 good.

While everyone may not agree with these decisions, and they are not final, yet in general they are a good guide to follow.

S signifies "Standards" or upright petals; F the "Falls" or drooping petals.

Please note the high ratings of irises in this catalog.

### Note

Prices in this catalog supersede all previous lists or quotations.



## *Elizabeth Hardee Iris Gardens*

KENTFIELD

Marin County, California

Telephone: San Anselmo 436-J

Visitors are welcome at any time except Sundays



## Cultural Directions



There are two classes of iris—the root and bulbous. The root type should be planted shallow just below the surface of the ground, and the bulbous once their own depth. The root type, to which most of the irises in this catalog belong, should be transplanted about every third year, either just after the blooming season, or in the fall. The earlier this work is done the better, as the spring flowering depends largely upon the fall growth.

Irises are all sun-lovers and should never be planted in dense shade. Some varieties keep their color best in partial shade but all must have sun at least part of the day.

Always select a well drained soil, preferably heavy. Work it well and top dress with wood ashes, lime or bone meal. Never use fresh manure.

The bearded irises can stand a long period of drought, but appreciate plenty of water as they approach the blooming season. Occasional deep watering during the summer is helpful in keeping the bulb in good condition and the foliage green.

Never allow irises to stand in water. Root rot is usually due to a cold, soggy soil or a soil in which there is decayed vegetable matter. If new soil is used for an iris planting be sure that the sod or weeds are thoroughly decayed and disintegrated.

Plant about a foot to eighteen inches apart and transplant when crowded. Some varieties give best results when they have formed a clump. Isolene is one of these. Others bloom well from a single rhizome. In replanting use the young, vigorous offshoots, discarding the old root. Always water a new planting until root growth is established, but exercise care at this time not to overdo the watering and cause the roots to rot. Do not plant irises between heavy shrubbery; always permit them to have air and sunshine.

# Pogon or Bearded Irises

## OF THE ROOT TYPE



### BLUE AND LILAC IN THE DELICATE SHADES

#### Rating

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 79 | ALBERT VICTOR (Barr). Perhaps no iris is more satisfactory than this beautiful Pallida. Large flowers of wonderful sheen borne upon 40-inch stems. Fragrant. S and F a rich lavender blue.                                | .25  |
| 94 | BALLERINE (Vilmorin). 48 in. Early. Large, very fragrant violet blue flowers. Given the second highest rating by the A. I. S. One of the very finest Pallidas.  | 2.50 |
| 89 | CATERINA (Foster). A light violet self, fragrant, lovely; stem 2-4 feet.  | .25  |
| 87 | CRUSADER (Foster) 42 in. Mid-season. A mammoth flower and very beautiful. S—Uniform light blue. F—Deeper bluish-violet, with a white throat that is lined with brown. Deep orange beard. One of the most striking of all. | 1.50 |
|    | FREDERICK. S pale lavender blue. F lavender blue, veined brown at throat. Heavy bloomer, one of the best for massing; large flower; medium tall.  | .25  |
| 76 | GLOIRE DE HILLEGOM. Tall, of vigorous growth; fragrant flower, clear light blue; excellent for cutting.   | .25  |
|    | LEONIDAS. Soft rosy mauve. Globular flower of great charm. 40 inches.   | .25  |
|    | LEWIS TROWBRIDGE (Farr). S bright violet. F blue violet, shaded rose. 33 in. Large flower, wide standards and falls.  | .35  |
| 81 | MESOPOTAMICA. A wild species, very tall and early. Useful in hybridizing. Blended shades of blue and light violet. Silky ruffled flower; branching flexile stem.  | 1.00 |
| 87 | MLLE. SCHWARTZ (Denis) 48 in. A wonderful pale mauve flower of large size and Pallida form. Free flowering.   | 3.50 |
| 95 | PRINCESS BEATRICE. 48 in. Midseason. Rated as the second best iris by the Amer. Iris Society. Stock limited, as the genuine stock is scarce. Delicate lavender of silky texture.  | .50  |
| 76 | RINGDOVE (Foster). S and F a soft mauve lavender; height 4 feet; most desirable as a cut-flower.  | .50  |

### UNNAMED SEEDLINGS

Like most growers of irises I am trying for the perfect flower. Out of hundreds of discarded seedlings I have kept only those of special appeal. These are mostly in the light blue and mauve tones and make splendid plantings for landscape work or cut flowers. I offer them at \$10 per hundred. No order filled for less than 100.

## Pink, Pink-Lilac and Red Tones



- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| 92 | ASIA (Yeld). 54 in. One of the most wonderful irises in cultivation. Free flowering, large blooms of pale lavender and violet purple. Large golden beard.                                  | 7.50  |
|    | CLARISSIMA. S soft pink lavender. F violet purple netted on snow white, giving a peculiar tigered effect; falls held horizontally. Charming in mass.                                       | .25   |
| 80 | COL. CANDELOT (Millet). Light rosy bronze standards, with rich velvety-maroon falls. Orange beard.   | 1.00  |
| 85 | DREAM (Sturtevant). A very lovely tall pink Pallida. Of good form and texture.   | 2.00  |
| 86 | EDOUARD MICHEL (Verdier). 36 in. Late. One of the finest iris in cultivation. Broad frilled standards and wide falls of deep wine red.   | .75   |
| 73 | HER MAJESTY (Perry). Pale rose with deeper colored veins on falls. 20 inches.  | .35   |
| 86 | ISOLENE (Vilmorin). S pale lilac, flushed yellow. F old rose with shadings of Chinese violet. Large pinkish buff flower of delicate texture and unusual beauty; one of the finest. 3 feet. | .35   |
| 79 | LOHENGRIN (Goos & Koenemann). Light mauve shading into pink. Flowers of good texture inclined to be frilled. 33 inches.  | .35   |
| 91 | MAGNIFICA (Vilmorin). Huge flowers, very showy. S light pink violet, F red violet. A handsome novelty.   | 2.50  |
|    | MAUVINE (Dean). A pink mauve of uniform shade, tall and very effective in the garden; useful for cutting.  | .50   |
| 85 | MEDRANO. Rich shade of bronzy claret. Fine flower of unusual coloring on rather dwarfed stems.   | 2.00  |
| 84 | MERLIN (Sturtevant). 30 in. A large lavender-violet flower, with buff styles.  | 1.75  |
| 82 | MT. PENN (Farr). Standards and falls deep reddish pink. Distinct orange beard. Pallida habit.  | 1.00  |
| 86 | QUEEN OF MAY (Salter). Soft rose pink of Pallida habit. 30 inches.   | .25   |
|    | RHODA. Large flower of moderate height. Lovely soft shell pink.  | 1.00  |
| 82 | ROSEWAY (Bliss). 36 in. Early. Bright red Pallida with orange beard.   | 2.00  |
|    | SUSAN BLISS (Bliss). One of Bliss's newest and best seedlings. A rich pink self with light orange beard.   | 20.00 |
|    | WINDHAM (Farr). Rose pink, veined darker rose; foliage rather small and delicate; flower large. About 20 inches. Fine for borders.   | .35   |

## Yellow, Yellow Blends, Bicolors and Bronzes



- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 86 | AFTERGLOW (Sturtevant). 36 in. Mid-season. Soft grayish lavender, shaded with yellow at the centre.  | 1.00 |
| 89 | ALCAZAR (Vilmorin). Enormous flowers of great substance; tall and vigorous, a giant in flower and growth. S light bluish violet with bronze reflections. F red violet with glowing bronze-veined throat.   | .50  |
| 94 | AMBASSADOR (Vilmorin). 42 in. Third highest rating by the Am. Iris Society. A monster flower of striking richness and beauty. S glistening smoky-lavender with an amber cast. Flower of fine form and texture. F rich brown maroon. Bright orange beard. | 2.50 |
| 74 | AUREA (Jacques, 1830). Chrome yellow. Very late. 24 inches.  | .50  |
| 61 | BERCHTA (Goos & Koenemann). S straw yellow. F soft shade of carmine violet with border of dull yellow. All divisions broad and full. Medium height.  | . 25 |
| 78 | DAWN (Yeld). 33 in. Early. Very pale yellow; almost white—reticulated brown at base. Bright yellow beard.  | .50  |
| 70 | FLAVESCENS (De Candolle). A very useful pale sulphur yellow.   | .25  |
| 78 | IRIS KING (Goos & Koenemann). Late. A combination of old gold and maroon that makes this iris very showy. It is one of the richest in coloring among the moderate priced iris.   | .50  |
| 80 | JACQUESIANA (Lemon). 30 in. Mid-season. Rich coloring and exceedingly beautiful flower. S coppery rose, deepening to a bronze throat. F rich velvety crimson-maroon. Golden beard.   | .35  |
| 78 | KNYSNA (Bliss). 33 in. S deep old gold. F velvety crimson-maroon, very distinct. Golden beard.   | 1.50 |
| 79 | LORELEY (Goos & Koenemann). S clear light yellow, often splashed with the raisin purple of the falls. F raisin purple, bordered cream. Very showy and free.  | .35  |
| 78 | MARY GARDEN (Farr). 28 in. Late. S pale yellow flushed pale lavender, minutely dotted brown at haft. F cream ground, minutely dotted and striped with lavender violet and maroon. Unique.  | .50  |
| 75 | MITHRAS (Goos & Koenemann). 24 in. Mid-season. S bright clear canary yellow. F rich wine-red with a narrow golden border. Throat beautifully marked wine red over a white ground. Bright orange beard.   | .50  |

## Yellow, Yellow Blends, Bicolors and Bronzes

(Continued)



- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 86 | <b>MME. DURRAND</b> (Denis). 42 in. Large flowers of an unusual shade of tawny buff and creamy yellow, overlaid with mauve.   | 5.00 |
| 74 | <b>NAVAHO</b> (Farr). 20 in. Mid-season. S beautiful old gold with slight lavender tints. F dark crimson-maroon stripes over a white and yellow ground. Rich golden beard. A free bloomer. Very beautiful and much admired. | .50  |
| 73 | <b>NIBELUNGEN</b> (Goos & Koenemann). S fawn yellow. F violet purple with fawn margin. 30 inches.   | .35  |
| 75 | <b>NOTHUNG</b> (Goos & Koenemann). A pale yellow flower suffused with delicate blue; tall, exquisite, charming in mass.   | .50  |
| 77 | <b>PRINCESS VICTORIA LOUISE</b> (Goos & Koenemann). S pinard yellow. F roods violet with yellow border. Vigorous and showy. 30 inches.  | .25  |
| 83 | <b>PROSPER LAUGIER</b> (Verdier). 32 in. Mid-season. S iridescent bronze. F velvety ruby-purple. Orange beard. Very rich flower. One of the best of the bronze irises.  | .50  |
| 88 | <b>SHEKINAH</b> (Sturtevant). 36 in. Mid-season. A very beautiful pale yellow, much deeper at the throat. Bright lemon beard. The first yellow of Pallida growth.   | 2.00 |
|    | <b>SUNSHINE</b> (Yeld). A.M., R.H.S. As the name implies this is a brilliant self-colored yellow variety. 2-2½ ft.  | 1.50 |
| 81 | <b>VIRGINIA MOORE</b> (Shull). Bright yellow. Falls only slightly veined. 2½ ft.  | 1.50 |
|    | <b>YELLOW HAMMER</b> (Denis). 24 in. Early. Pure bright amber-yellow. Sweetly scented.  | 3.00 |



## Purples and Bicolors Containing Various Shades of Blue



- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 83 | <b>ARCHEVEQUE.</b> S light hortense violet; F velvety raisin purple. A large flower of rich coloring.   | .35  |
| 71 | <b>BLUE JAY (Farr).</b> A rich bluet blue. Late and distinct.   | .35  |
|    | <b>DALMARIUS (Goos &amp; Koenemann).</b> S satiny grey. F velvety soft purple lilac. Attractive.  | .25  |
|    | <b>HANNIBAL.</b> S grey blue. F grey blue, heavily-veined heliotrope. Attractive and unusual; medium height.  | .25  |
|    | <b>HIAWATHA (Farr).</b> S pale rosy lavender. F royal purple, bordered lavender. 28 inches.   | .50  |
| 74 | <b>KHARPOT.</b> This variety is collected in and named for a town in Mesopotamia. The large violet purple velvety flower is regal in its beauty; one of the first to bloom. 30 inches.  | .25  |
| 78 | <b>KOCHI.</b> Rich claret purple of silky texture; free bloomer. Early.   | .25  |
| 96 | <b>LENT A. WILLIAMSON (Williamson).</b> S. hyssop violet. F velvety mulberry purple. Large flowers of great beauty and richness. A new hybrid that has been referred to by Mr. Bliss as the finest of the American seedlings. 3 feet. | 1.50 |
| 87 | <b>OPERA (Vilmorin).</b> 28 in. Early. One of the richest colored irises in existence. Standards of rich violet-rose with falls of rich velvety violet-purple. Orange beard.  | 1.50 |
|    | <b>OTHELLO.</b> Delicately graceful flower of deep violet tones. Velvety. All divisions long and narrow. Effective near water.  | .25  |
| 78 | <b>PERFECTION (Barr).</b> Rich coloring. Prolific bloomer. S light lavender violet. F flaring. Velvety deep violet purple. Bright orange beard.   | .35  |
|    | <b>REGAN (Hort).</b> A new distinct dark purple, heavily reticulated brown on a white ground.   | 4.00 |
| 84 | <b>RHEIN NIXIE (Goos &amp; Koenemann).</b> 36 in. Midseason. S pure snow white. F red-purple with white border. Strikingly beautiful. Large flower.   | .50  |
| 93 | <b>SOUVENIR DE MME. GAUDICHAU (Millet).</b> 42 in. One of the most striking and remarkable of all irises. Tall and early. Large, perfectly formed flowers of the richest Bradley's violet. Velvety. Prolific bloomer.                 | 3.75 |
| 81 | <b>TROJANA.</b> 36 in. A giant flower. Very beautiful. Pale blue standards with rich purple falls and orange beard. The true variety.   | .50  |



## White and White Blended or Veined with Other Colors



- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 80 | <b>FAIRY</b> (Kennicott). Delicately beautiful. S incurving, F recurving, producing a globular form. S white with soft blue at base. F creamy white. Translucent. 30 inches. | .25  |
| 76 | <b>FLORENTINA</b> . Very large, early. White fragrant flowers with slight lilac reflections. 30 inches.  | .25  |
|    | <b>JEANNE D'ARC</b> (Verdier). A delicately frilled white, with tinting of lavender blue; very lovely. 2½ feet.  | .35  |
| 84 | <b>KASHMIR WHITE</b> (Foster). The best tall pure white. Flowers of good substance on well branched stems.   | 1.50 |
| 76 | <b>MISS WILLMOTT</b> (Foster). It is a fine white, sometimes pure, sometimes variably washed with lavender. Branching spikes carrying four flowers. 3-3½ feet.               | .50  |
|    | <b>MLLE. GUERVILLE</b> . Pale violet white, heavily dotted and veined dark violet. Large flower of unusual coloring.   | .75  |
| 79 | <b>PARISIANA</b> (Vilmorin). White standards heavily netted and the falls fringed with Chinese violet. 30 inches.  | .50  |
|    | <b>THORBECKE</b> . S white, F rich velvety purple. The flower is not large but the contrast in coloring makes a very effective garden clump.                                 | .50  |



Each of the following varieties is growing in my garden. In some cases I have only single clumps; in others a small propagating stock:

Ambigu	Imperatrice	Toreador
Conquistador	Mexicaine	Victorine
Delicatissima	Nirvana	Susiana
Dejazet	Prospero	Monspur
J. B. Dumas	Queen of Belges	Hexagona Purpea
Dominion	Jardins	Japonica
Hypolyta Pernet	Sarabaude	Tectorum
Hoogiana	Sherbert	

# Apogon or Beardless Irises

## OF THE ROOT TYPE



The following varieties require water during the dry season. In the case of *Iris Siberica* the best results are obtained by planting in a moist location or where they can have the regular watering given flower beds. The lovely green grass-like foliage will repay one for this care.

### OCHROLEUCA

(Apogon)

Syn. "ORIENTALIS GIGANTEA." White with yellow blotch on falls; tall and handsome; very decorative as a cut-flower. .25

### IRIS SIBERICA

(Most elegant of all the small flowered irises. Narrow grassy foliage with tall, slender stems. Extremely effective planted near pools.)

ORIENTALIS. Intensely brilliant flowers of gentian blue; stems 3 feet. .25

### UNGUICULARIS

(Stylosa)

Native of Algeria

(Midwinter flowering, blooming from Fall to Spring)

STYLOSA. Lilac blue with grassy evergreen foliage. The leaves of *Iris Stylosa* form clumps like the wild iris. The flower stems are often 8 to 10 inches and the flower, though small, is unusually effective because of its clear coloring and horizontal falls. .25



### *Pseudacorus*

YELLOW WATER IRIS. Bright yellow flowers, 3 foot stems. Will thrive in water and damp localities. .25

# English Irises

## OF THE BULB TYPE



Iris Anglica, or English iris, is a name which is believed to have originated in the fact that this iris was in cultivation in Bristol as early as the sixteenth century. In those days Bristol was an important center of trade with Spain. Since it is a native of the Alpine meadows of Spain, where the soil is always cool and moist beneath the surface, its culture presents certain difficulties, especially in California. However, by selecting the proper soil and location there is no reason why the English iris cannot be grown to perfection. While the bulbs are very hardy and can be left in the ground from one to three years I have found that the most satisfactory method to follow is to lift the bulbs when the foliage dies down, which is just after the flowering season, dry for a few days and clean, then put away in a dry place until late September when they should be replanted in a well worked, well enriched soil where they will have plenty of sun but not allowed to bake. Water regularly from the time the foliage appears until the blooming season is over. The English iris is preeminently a cut flower with blooms odd in color and very showy; they keep unusually well in water. I would not recommend them for garden effect as the foliage is insignificant and begins to die as the flower stalk is put forth. The blooming season is June and early July. Unlike the Spanish iris there are no yellows among them. Plant once their own depth.

Bleu Celeste—Sky blue.

Electra—Very pale blue, tinted lilac.

Enchantress—Porcelain.

Grand Lilas—Light blue, tinted and spotted red mauve.

John Ducker (Kohinoor)—White, mottled rose purple.

Mount Blanc—Pure white.

Perle des Jardins—Pearl, flamed light blue.

Rosa Bonheur—White, splashed carmine.

Surprise—Indigo blue.

Tricolor—White, blue and red.

\$1.00 per dozen; \$7.50 per hundred. Stock limited.



*Path in Elizabeth Hardee Iris Gardens*



# Landscape Effects



I have given considerable thought to the garden and landscape effect of my irises and will be glad to make suggestions where desired. Certain varieties are best planted alone in groups or clumps. Alcazar, for instance, is too bold and showy to associate with his fellows.

A planting in my own garden of *Isolene* and *Nothung* with a deep border of *Windham* was the loveliest thing imaginable.

*Princess Victoria Louise* with *Flavescens* is fine. *Ringdove* and *Jacquesiana*. *Rhoda* and *Jeanne D'Arc*. There are many other groupings that are beautiful.

Where irises occupy a prominent place that is likely to look bare during the summer plant perennial *Phlox* between the bulbs. These will give a mass of bloom during the season when the iris is dormant and will not crowd the bulbs. A background of *Delphinium* will add to this charming effect. The blue *Michaelmas Daisy* is also excellent as a background and a planting of *Zinnias* will not injure the iris but will give color during the summer. In planting between irises use care not to overcrowd or shade them too much.

For landscaping and open sunbaked vistas nothing is so satisfactory as a planting of the light blue *Pallidas*. The effect at a distance is that of a shimmering sheet of water. When the flowers have gone the foliage will hold its own under the most trying conditions.

No flower is more satisfying than the iris for home decoration. If cut in the bud when about to open the flowers will expand in the house in their full richness of color and last a long time. Every bud will blossom, replacing with a fresh flower those which fade.









